REMARKS

Claims 6-8, 10-12, 15 and 18 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of January 10, 2006, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 6-8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion.

Art Rejections

Claims 6, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Miura et al., JP 63-256945, hereinafter Miura'945.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal

complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Miura'945 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Miura et al., JP 64-184441, hereinafter Miura'441.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 has been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Miura'441 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by JP 51-018530.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and

10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in JP 51-018539 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Shiba et al.'832

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Shiba et al.'832 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Hayami et al.'862.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 6 has been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Hiyami'862 that discloses or suggests a

styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Okusa et al.'046.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Okusa et al. '046 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by JP 60-083892.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in JP 60-083892 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Gotze et al. '644.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Gotze et al.'644 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Shiba et al. '505.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite that X^- is an organic metal complex ion. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, as well as in Chemical Formulae 10, 25, 32, 35, 41 and 43. There is nothing in Shiba et al.'505 that discloses or suggests a styryl dye in which the counter ion is an organic metal complex ion.

Claims 6-8, 1-12, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 60-232995 in view of Okusa et al. '046. It is the Examiner's position that it

would have been obvious to modify examples 4 and 5 in Table 1 on page 32, which use dyes D20 and D24, which include styryl dyes D+II-2 or D+II-7, respectively, by replacing the dialkylamino moieties with halogens, cyano or an alkoxycarbonyl moiety with a reasonable expectation of forming a useful optical recording medium which has improved sensitivity over that of examples 4 and 5.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither JP 60-232995 nor Okusa et al. '046 discloses a styryl dye having an organic metal complex ion as a counter ion. It is therefore respectfully submitted that neither a light absorbent composition as recited in amended claim 6, nor an optical recording medium as recited in amended claim 10, could have been obtained even if one skilled in the art modified the dyes disclosed in JP 60-232995 in accordance with the teachings of Okusa et al. '046.

We note that the Examiner has requested an English translation of JP 60-232995. However, unfortunately, an English translation is not available. Even the Japanese Patent Office does not provide an English translation for JP 60-232995, and there is no English language equivalent for this patent.

Claims 6-8, 10-12, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 60-232995 in view of Okusa et al. '046, further in view of Namba et al. '231, JP 51-018530 and Miura et al., JP 63-256945.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. As noted above, Neither JP 60-232995, Okusa et al. '046, JP 51-018530 nor Miura et al. '945 discloses a styryl dye having an organic metal complex ion as a counter ion. Moreover, Namba et al. '231 do not use a styryl dye as recited in amended claims 6 and 10. It is therefore respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art that a light absorbent composition as recited in amended claim 6 and an optical recording medium as recited in amended claim 10 would have the excellent properties and industrial usefulness as described in the instant specification on pages 52 to 53.

Advantageous Effect

Applicant has experimental data which show the excellent light resistance of a styryl dye as defined in amended claim 6. Styryl dyes as represented by chemical Formulae 10, 25 and 41, all have an organic metal complex ion as a counter ion. These dyes were tested for light resistance in a way similar to that disclosed in Example 6-2, pages 47-51 of the specification. However, a light-resistant improver as

represented by Chemical formula 62 was not used. The light resistance of the dyes *per se* was tested.

Test samples as prepared in the same manner as in Example 6-2 were exposed to the light of a 500 W xenon lamp for time periods of 57, 111, 321, 468, 741 and 972 minutes, to receive different accumulated light exposures (KJ/m^2). The residual percentage of each styryl dye was calculated by the equation on page 49. The results are shown below:

Dye	Residual Percentage of Dye (%)					
	accumulated light exposure (KJ/m2)					
	620	1,200	2,500	5,050	8,000	10,500
Chemical Formula 10	98%	98%	97%	97%	96%	95%
Chemical Formula 25	92%	90%	89%	88%	84%	80%
Chemical Formula 41	95%	95%	94%	93%	92%	90%

As can readily be seen from the above, the styryl dyes as defined in claims 6 and 10 as amended, *e.g.*, styryl dyes having an organic metal complex ion as a counter ion, possess good light resistance.

It is noted that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is merely considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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